

Date Mailed  
April 7, 2003

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, Inc., for  
Rate Increase and Petition for Emergency Order for Rate Increase

2815-TR-103

Application of CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC for  
Authority to Approve Alternative Regulation Plan

2815-TI-103

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION,  
ORDER TO REOPEN,  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Comments Due:  
**Tuesday, April 22, 2003- Noon**

FAX Due:  
**Monday, April 21, 2003- Noon**

Address Comments To:  
**Lynda L. Dorr**  
**Secretary to the Commission**  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854  
FAX (608) 266-3957

**THIS IS A NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION** in docket 2815-TI-103 and an Order to Reopen in docket 2815-TR-103, to establish a procedure to address the November 20, 2002, application of CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC (Kendall or applicant), for authority to present an alternative regulation plan for the Commission's consideration.

A copy of the Kendall application can be found on the Commission's web page at [http://www.psc.state.wi.us/telecom/cases/rec\\_apps/recentap.htm](http://www.psc.state.wi.us/telecom/cases/rec_apps/recentap.htm).

In its application, Kendall presents a proposed alternative regulation plan (Plan). That application also asks that the Commission provide a waiver to Kendall of a provision included in the Commission's October 31, 2001, *Final Decision* in docket 2815-TR-103. That *Final Decision* states, "Kendall may not file for alternative regulation until it has completed another rate case in the future." Kendall has not completed another rate case. In lieu thereof, Kendall

Dockets 2815-TR-103 and 2815-TI-103

notes in its application that it is willing “to forego recovery of its revenue deficiencies through another rate increase with approval of the Plan.”<sup>1</sup>

This Order reopens docket 2815-TR-103, for purposes of considering whether to waive the provision in the October 31, 2001, *Final Decision* that requires a rate case before alternative regulation can be implemented for the applicant. This reopening will provide an opportunity for interested persons to comment on whether or not this requirement should be modified, and on whether or not the Commission can and should proceed to consider the applicant’s Plan.

The purpose of comments at this time is not to address the specific alternative regulation plan presented by Kendall’s November 20, 2002, filing. Rather, comments sought at this time should address whether there is a sound basis to address an alternative regulation for the applicant without proceeding under the original intended course of action in the *Final Decision*; that is, the completion of a rate case investigation prior to considering a change in the method of regulation for this company. Procedures for docket 2815-TI-103 will be established later.

## ORDER

Docket 2815-TR-103 is reopened pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.39(1) for the purpose of taking comments as discussed herein on whether to proceed on an alternative regulation plan for CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC, without completion of a rate case as contemplated by the Commission’s *Final Decision* in this docket.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Any person who desires to file comments on modifying the requirement of the October 31, 2001, *Final Decision* that Kendall must have a rate case prior to the consideration of an alternative regulation plan should submit an original and 20 copies of such comments as indicated in the box on p. 1. The comments should **refer to docket 2815-TR-103 only**. Nonutility members of the public need only file an original. These comments must be received **by noon on Tuesday, April 22, 2003**. Comments by fax are due one day earlier. Fax filing cover sheets must state “**Official Filing**” and include the docket number and the number of pages (limit of 25 pages). **File by one mode only.**

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs and services. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate

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<sup>1</sup> In its application, Kendall included financial estimates to show that it is operating at a revenue deficiency in spite of the rate increase granted in the Commission’s October 31, 2001, *Final Decision*.

Dockets 2815-TR-103 and 2815-TI-103

in this matter or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the Commission's docket coordinator Ken Barth at (608) 267-2406.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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